HIGHLIGHTS

- The global Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines will be the largest and fastest procurement, supply and country readiness and delivery operation ever.

- Within this appeal, UNICEF and partners will deliver needed vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and will work to support risk communication and community engagement as well as country preparedness efforts for the vaccine roll out, while supporting the strengthening of health systems.

- As of February 19, ACT-A faces a US$22.9 billion funding gap for 2021. To do its part to support ACT-A, UNICEF urgently requires US$659 million, which includes $510 million to support the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries in 2021.
Ensuring global equitable access to COVID-19 health supplies: UNICEF’s role in ACT-A/COVAX

Together with partners in the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and COVAX, UNICEF is working to ensure countries have safe, fast and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines when the initial doses become available.

Read more about this story here
The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. UNICEF and partners will buy and deploy needed vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and will work to support country readiness for the vaccine roll out, while supporting the strengthening of health systems. These actions will help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, potentially save lives of frontline workers and high-risk populations, make health systems more resilient and ultimately, help ensure that the children in low- and middle-income countries survive and thrive. Via our efforts, we will contribute towards ACT-A’s targets to deliver 2 billion vaccine doses, 165 million therapeutic courses and 900 million diagnostic tests to low- and middle-income countries in a safe and equitable way in 2021.

To do our part in supporting the ACT-A and to contribute to fill funding gaps, UNICEF requires US$659 million in 2021 to support:

- The Vaccine Pillar with commodities needed for safe vaccine administration, such as cold chain equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand hygiene (soap and hand sanitizer), operational costs for vaccine delivery and associated technical assistance. Crucially, this also includes support for vaccine delivery to humanitarian populations.

- The Diagnostics Pillar with the purchase and delivery of rapid COVID-19 diagnostic tests, as well as the associated technical assistance for roll-out and rapid scale up of novel technologies on the ground.

- The Therapeutics Pillar with the purchase and delivery of novel and repurposed treatments for COVID-19 and associated technical assistance for country preparedness activities, including drug safety surveillance and reporting, as well as the training of staff.

- Contribute to the health systems connector by providing Risk Communication and Community Engagement in countries to promote trust and support adoption for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
UNICEF’s 2021 ACT-A Humanitarian Action for Children appeal requires US$659 million at the global level to support ACT-A, across the vaccines (COVAX), therapeutics and diagnostic pillars, and the health systems connector. As part of the US$510 million required to support vaccine delivery, an estimated US$120 million is for the delivery costs of doses supplied under the humanitarian buffer (which is a provider of last resort for at-risk populations not covered by national immunization programmes).

Unless funding is secured, UNICEF and partners will not be able to reach the millions of people targeted in this appeal thus slowing down the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine creating long-lasting impact on children and their families - driving poverty and malnutrition rates, poorer health, and lower levels of education. UNICEF is seeking flexible and timely contributions to ensure ACT-A interventions and tools are rolled out in countries most in need. Working with experts in its headquarters and regional offices, UNICEF will allocate flexible funding to ACT-A priority areas where the needs are most acute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>2021 requirements (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutics</td>
<td>54,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccine distribution cost, including</td>
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<tr>
<td>humanitarian buffer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk communication and community engagement</td>
<td>24,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>659,000,000</td>
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</tbody>
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1. Eligible countries refer to economies of the Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines (Gavi Covax AMC) that have an approved National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP).

2. https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021

3. The US$ 2 billion includes country, regional, and global level costs, technical assistance, in-country outreach and fixed site delivery costs, up-front costs, such as cold chain installation and training.

4. Eligible countries refer to economies of the Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines (Gavi Covax AMC) that have an approved National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP).

5. Ibid.

6. Risk communication and community engagement is part of health system strengthening of ACT-A.